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FINAL EDITION

Davonte
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BLESSED IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

SPORTS, PAGE D1



Neapolitan-style pizza spot to open

RESTAURANT NOTES, PAGE C1

\$20 million in aid targeted at Falls sewage discharge

State seeks remedy for treatment plant

BY THOMAS J. PROHASKA
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Niagara Falls' wastewater-treatment plant, which malfunctioned spectacularly this summer in an incident that brought the city worldwide derision, is being earmarked for special aid from Albany.

Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul announced Tuesday that Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo will ask the State Legislature for \$20 million for what she described as the first phase of improvements at the sewer plant.

The proposal is to be included in the State of the State address, which Cuomo will make next month.

"It feels like Christmas today," Niagara Falls Water Board Chairman Daniel T. O'Callaghan said at a news conference in the Niagara Gorge Discovery Center.

Basil Seggos, commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Conservation, told reporters that the state has \$500,000 on hand now to pay for two engineering studies of the plant, which would determine exactly what can be done with the \$20 million.

Although the long-term goal is to convert the plant from its current carbon-based treatment method into a biological system, officials said, work can

be done in the short term to prevent excessive discharges.

The DEC and the Water Board, which operates the city's water and sewer systems, signed a consent order Tuesday in response to the July 29 "blackwater" incident.

A video of the discharge of smelly carbon-colored water from the main sewer outflow beside the Maid of the Mist dock went viral and led to a \$50,000 fine against the Water Board.

The Water Board also has absorbed criticism from the DEC for excessive discharges of untreated storm sewage after heavy rains, although these are common in communities that combine storm and sanitary sewage in the same mains.

Seggos said the consent order requires a wet-weather operations plan that would reduce those combined sewer overflows; installation of a permanent monitoring system at the sewer plant; permanent, ongoing staff training; and a plan to reduce sludge buildup that contributed to the "blackwater" incident.

There actually will be two engineering studies, one due in nine months and the other in 15 months. O'Callaghan said the studies will point the way to what needs to be done to improve the plant.

"This is just phase one. After phase one, we'll see what we go from there," he said.

See **Cleanup** on Page A6

House passes tax overhaul, most sweeping in decades



New York Times

House Speaker Paul D. Ryan, R-Wis., appears with other GOP leaders at the Capitol on Tuesday to speak to reporters about the 227-203 vote, along party lines, to approve the \$1.5 trillion tax legislation, the biggest overhaul since 1986.

GOP posts major success as Senate's OK is awaited

BY THOMAS KAPLAN
AND ALAN RAPPEPORT
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Republicans took a critical step Tuesday toward notching their first significant legislative victory of the year as the House voted along party lines to pass the most sweeping rewrite of the tax code in decades and the Senate was on the verge of also approving the \$1.5 trillion tax bill.

The bill would be the biggest legisla-

"Today, we are giving the people of this country their money back," House Speaker Paul Ryan said before the vote. When the bill passed, he smiled broadly and banged the gavel with force to declare victory.

tive accomplishment for Republicans since President Trump took office and gave the party control of all the levers of power in Washington.

"Today, we are giving the people of this country their money back," House Speaker Paul D. Ryan, R-Wis., said before the vote. When the bill passed the House, a giddy Ryan smiled broadly and banged the gavel with force as he declared victory.

The day was not without hiccups, however, as several small provisions in the tax bill were found by the Senate parliamentarian to violate the budget rules that Republicans must follow to pass their bill through

See **Taxes** on Page A5

Karin Housley to run for U.S. Senate seat

Sets Minnesota race as Franken departs

BY TIM O'SHEI
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Karin Housley for some time has been mulling the idea of running for governor of her home state, Minnesota. But when her husband, Phil Housley, was hired last June to become coach of the Buffalo Sabres, she tabled the idea — at least temporarily.

But now, as a new political opportunity has arisen from the impending resignation of Minnesota Sen. Al Franken, Housley has decided to run for his seat in 2018.

Housley, a Republican state senator in Minnesota since 2013 who ran for lieutenant governor in 2014 and lost, announced her intention to run for Franken's seat in a video message Tues-



Karin Housley, Minnesota state senator and wife of Sabres coach Phil Housley, gears up for '18 candidacy.

day morning.

"I get things done," said Housley, who is also the owner of a real estate firm, the author of a book on investing for women, and a former broadcaster. "I would love to represent you and be the new voice for Minnesota in the United States Senate. I'll

See **Housley** on Page A5

Tesla's troubles send out big ripples throughout domestic solar market

The U.S. residential solar market has a Tesla problem.

After more than a decade of double-digit growth, the nation is expected to install fewer rooftop solar systems on homes during 2017, according to a new report by GTM Research.

And Tesla, the electric vehicle maker that is ramping up a mammoth solar panel factory in South Buffalo, is the biggest reason behind the decline.

The company, which has promised to create 1,460 jobs at its South Park Avenue solar panel factory, has sharply curtailed the solar energy business it acquired through its purchase of



David Robinson

BUFFALO'S BUSINESS

SolarCity a year ago.

Tesla executives have said the slowdown in its solar business is intentional as the company reshapes its rooftop installation operations and shifts away from the growth-at-any-price strategy it once followed in favor of a more sustainable approach. Its new strategy, built around a new solar roof now under development, puts a bigger focus on profitability and cash generation.

While Tesla executives and analysts expect solar to rebound, the company's shift now is

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Tesla said the slowdown is intentional as it reshapes its rooftop installation operations and shifts away from a growth-at-any-price strategy in favor of a more sustainable approach.

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WEATHER

Mostly cloudy, breezy. High 33, low 22. Details on Page B10.



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